

SP-L2 Land Management*December 11, 2001***1.0 Introduction/Background**

In order to understand land management within the Study Area, this study will research, describe, and graphically display the management direction of Study Area lands. It will also identify the entities that are responsible for managing those lands. It is important to have an awareness of land management directives and the entities which regulate them in order to appropriately manage project operations and plan for future activities that may influence lands, such as enhancement measures proposed by work groups.

2.0 Study Objective

The objective of this study is to determine what entities own and manage the lands within the Study Area. In addition, the study will identify the policies and objectives used to manage those lands. The study will ultimately determine how the management of those lands influences project operations and vice-versa.

There are no known studies that address the issue of land management for the entire Study Area. Information from entities that have compiled land management data related to the Study Area, such as Butte County, the City of Oroville, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), and the United States Forest Service (USFS), will be utilized as part of this study.

3.0 Relationship to Relicensing/Need for the Study

Currently, it is difficult to determine with accuracy what entities manage lands within the Study Area, or what the management directives/objectives are for those lands. It is also difficult to ascertain how effectively lands are being managed (in relationship to their management directives/objectives) and the factors that influence land management, such as funding and staffing. These types of information are important to acquire so that Study Area lands (and other resources) can be managed in a way which reflects what is occurring on nearby lands and vice-versa.

This study will address Issue Statement LM1—necessary funding and staffing needs to adequately address land management for project lands; and Issue Statement LM4—appropriate law enforcement activities, security and penalties for project lands. Specific Issues that will be addressed include LM E1—evaluate facility security; LM E4 and E5—funds available for security; and LM 15—warning system for water releases.

4.0 Study Area

The Study Area includes Lake Oroville, the lands and waters within and adjacent to (1/4 mile) the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) project boundary, and adjacent lands, facilities, and areas with a clear project nexus.

5.0 General Approach

Detailed Methodology and Analysis Procedures

This study will entail two primary tasks: an assessment of the entities that currently have land management responsibilities for lands within the Study Area, along with a description of the plans that are used to manage those lands; and, an evaluation of land management direction along with an opportunities and constraints analysis.

Task 1—Existing Land Management Patterns

Task 1A—Literature and Data Review and Interviews with Land Management Entities

Lands within the Study Area will be evaluated and their land management directives described. There will be a review of existing management maps associated with comprehensive/management plans to determine how they influence management. Entities that manage land near the Study Area will be identified and staff will be contacted for additional information.

Personnel from appropriate jurisdictions and agencies will be contacted to determine how up-to-date management plans are, to establish anticipated changes to those plans, and to identify new plans or policies. Planned or potential development activities that could influence the management direction of lands within the Study Area will also be identified during Task 1A. In addition, land managers will be asked to identify the current challenges they face (such as budgetary, staffing, coordination) which may influence existing and/or potential Study Area land management.

Task 1B—Mapping

New maps will be developed to display land ownership and management patterns within the Study Area. GIS layers from sources such as Butte County, USFS, DWR, and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will be obtained and added to the database as will information from hard copy maps. This information will allow the research team to develop comprehensive maps of the entire Study Area, which will display the lands and their associated management entities. Management classifications (and directions) for those lands will also be identified. After the preliminary maps have been completed, management agency staff and appropriate work group members will review them to ensure that they are up-to-date and accurate.

Task 2—Land Management Directions and Trends, Issues, Opportunities and Constraints

Task 2A—Land Management Consistency and Direction

Task 2A will involve summarizing how various land management entities within the Study Area manage their lands. It will also discuss how consistent management directives are with actual land use.

Task 2B—Land Management Issues Identified by the Work Group

Task 2B will address the land management issues identified by the Land Use Work Group, or other work groups, which may occur while this study is being conducted.

Task 2C—Opportunities and Constraints Analysis

After identifying how lands within the Study Area are managed and current and/or potential land management conflicts, an opportunity and constraints analysis will be conducted. The analysis will identify constraints and examine approaches to resolving land management conflicts.

Task 2D—Consistency with Wetland, Floodplain and Other Natural Resource Protection Management Directions and Regulations

This task is specifically required by FERC under 18 CFR 4.51 (6)(iii) as part of the relicensing process. Information regarding the management of wetlands, floodplains and other environmentally sensitive areas can come from a variety of sources, but the most reliable source will be the terrestrial group within the Environmental Work Group. Thus, this task will require extensive coordination with the Environmental Work Group. The research team will also review federal, state and local regulations related to wetland and floodplain protection and will use resources such as National Wetland Inventory maps and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) information as part of the effort to identify wetlands and floodplains.

6.0 Results and Products/Deliverables

Results

This study will provide a better understanding of which entities manage lands within the Study Area, as well as what their particular directives are. This information will help ensure that work groups' enhancement proposals are consistent with the land management directives of responsible entities.

Products/Deliverables

The following products will be developed for this study:

- Interim Land Management Report
- Final Land Management Report

The report will include land management maps, and will summarize and characterize the current status of land management and ownership in the Study Area. It will also evaluate the consistency between anticipated actions and relevant comprehensive/ management plans and such actions' compliance with applicable laws.

The opportunity and constraints analysis will identify potential opportunities to resolve land management issues, while identifying constraints.

The maps will be based on GIS data layers that will display land ownership, land management responsibilities and land use designations or classifications.

7.0 Coordination and Implementation Strategy

Coordination with Other Resource Areas/Studies

Prior to commencing this study, the research team will meet with other work groups to determine where and when relevant data can be gathered and shared. This study will require coordination with the Engineering and Operations, Environmental, Cultural Resources and Recreation and Socioeconomics Work Groups. These groups will likely be collecting Study Area-related data simultaneously. Further, this study will be conducted in conjunction with Study #1—Land Use and Study #3—Land Use Comprehensive Plan Consistency Evaluation.

Issues, Concerns, Comments Tracking, and/or Regulatory Compliance Requirements

This study will address Issue Statement LM1—necessary funding and staffing needs to adequately address land management for project lands; and Issue Statement LM4—appropriate law enforcement activities, security and penalties for project lands. Specific Issues that will be addressed include LM E1—evaluate facility security; LM E4 and E5—funds available for security; and LM 15—warning system for water releases.

8.0 Study Schedule

Data collection: March through October 2002.

Data analysis and report writing: October 2002 through October 2003.

Interim Land Management Report due: October 2003.

Land Management Report due: December 2003.